THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Ministry is implementing 32 schemes in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. No allocation is made district-wise.

(b) The Ministry's schemes in the Central Sector and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented through State Government/UT Administrations and NGOs. The progress of implementation of these schemes is monitored through a mechanism comprising periodical progress reports submitted by the implementing agencies and inspection/evaluation and recommendation by the nodal Departments of the State Government, Inspection Teams/institutions designated by the Ministries, as well as the apex bodies/National Institutes etc. The grants for the ongoing programmes are released after taking into account the performance report, audited accounts and utilization certificates in respect of grant released during the preceding years.

(c) and (d) The Government of India implements a schemes called Border Area Development Programme in the blocks of Punjab on the international border 100% funding is being provided by the Planning Commission for undertaking activities in Education, Health, Agriculture, development of infrastructure and in the social sector. An amount of Rs. 10.08 crore has been allocated in 2002-03 to the Government of Punjab under this programme.

Report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on NER

1184. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the North-Eastern States has recommended that the Planning Commission should rationalise the allocation of funds on the basis of poverty ratio between the States;

(b) whether the Centre-Region ratio for the North Eastern Region should be 90 : 10 against the present ratio of 75 : 25; and

(c) if so, what are the Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee on North Eastern Region to

consider the resolution adopted in the third Conference of the Committee of the Rural Development Ministers of the North Eastern States and Sikkim at Kohima on 17.11.2000. The Committee *inter-alia* recommended review of the criteria of allocation of funds amongst North Eastern States by the Planning Commission taking into account the respective poverty ratios in the North Eastern States which could be derived on the basis of the latest Survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

(b) The Committee felt that considering the special category status there is a case for change in the funding pattern of Rural Poverty alleviation Programmes from 75 : 25 to 90 : 10 ratio and recommended that the Planning Commission consider the suggestion.

(c) The Planning Commission is of the view that it will not be possible to provide separate poverty estimates for each of the North Eastern States due to data constraints. Also the recommended change in sharing of funds between Centre and States for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes from 75 : 25 to 90 : 10 for North Eastern States and other similarly placed States cannot be supported as it would result in reduction of funds earmarked for Rural Development Programmes.

Exemption from budgetary allocation for NER

1185. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) which Ministries have been exempted from obligatory allocation of 10 per cent of their budgets to North Eastern Region;

(b) the total amount in the non-lapsable pool upto 31st March, 2002 and the amount added during the current year; and

(c) the Government's plan for the development of North-East?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The following Union Ministries/ Departments are exempted from the mandatory requirement of spending 10% of their Budget on the North East and Sikkim:

1. Expenditure;
2. Revenue;

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